

- (a) providing a list of said data packages stored by said plurality of peer clients, each of said data packages having an entry in said list, said entry including a unique identifier for said data package and a location of said data package within at least one of said plurality of peer clients;
- (b) searching, at a first peer client, said list to find a particular entry at a second peer client for a required data package; and,
- (c) if said particular entry is found, retrieving, at said first peer client, said data package from said second peer client, according to said particular entry; and,
- (d) if said particular entry is not found, retrieving, at said first peer client, said data package from said server.

23. A method for distributing data packages across a network, the network featuring a server for serving at least one data package, and a plurality of peer clients for storing said data packages, the steps of the method being performed by a data processor, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing at each of said plurality of peer clients a local list of data packages stored by said peer client, each of said data packages having an entry in said local list;
- (b) requesting, at a first peer client, a required data package;
- (c) searching at a second peer client, said local list, to find a particular entry for said required data package;
- (d) if said particular entry is found, retrieving, at said first peer client, said data package from said second peer client, according to said particular entry; and,
- (e) if said particular entry is not found, retrieving, at said first peer client, said data package from said server.